

gaudy phrases, with empty rhetoric, with learned speech, with obscure verbiage, with husks instead of bread. Oh! look on suffering, dying, heart-broken, perishing men and women, and bathing your soul in the love of him who came to die for the lost, cry in their ears, "Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world," and invite them to take the living water which shall become within them "a well of water springing up to everlasting life."

"THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS IS HIS."

The world lies in the hollow of God's hand. The sea is his, and he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. On every hand ten thousand tokens of design, contrivance, utility and skill, combined with Almighty power omniscient wisdom, attest the Creator's handiwork. "In his hands are the deep places of the earth." Every gem that sparkles in the darkness, every metallic vein which has glided in broken currents among hidden rocks, every vast mass of precious ore, every deep volcano which glows with intense heat, every throbbing, heaving geyser, every burning current that hisses through the hot bowels of the earth—all these are in his hands. He knows the countless treasures over which barbarians wander and above which they starve, but in seeking which, those whom he has made wise, find wealth and treasure and prosperity. He sees the coal, the oil, the hidden gases, which man has so lately discovered and utilized.

The mountain ranges also are his. He moulded and formed them in their rock-ribbed grandeur, sprayed them with molten silver and molten gold, filled them with iron and copper, and all the metals and minerals which man seeks and uses. All these are his works, and his working. In heaven above his sunshine brightens all things with his smile, and the earth beneath is stored with his treasures for the use of men. Let those who know him recognize his work. "In his hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hill is his also. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *Psa. xcv, 4.*

PRAYER.

It is necessary for a Christian to pray. Every Christian does pray. The soul that does not at times lift itself up to God in prayer is not possessed of the Christian life. The believer finds pleasure and comfort in thanksgiving and prayer and derives spiritual strength therefrom.

We do not have reference now to the common prayer offered by the worshipping congregation. The Christian ought to attend divine services for the purpose of praying. That ought to be the main purpose of his going to the house of God. Every one in the worshipping assembly ought to come before the Lord in the prayer and praise that are offered in the divine services. He ought to make the prayers and hymns his own before the throne of grace. This is the Christian's privilege and duty. He who does so will be benefited by all the services of the hour.

But it is the additional duty of private prayer that we wish to emphasize especially at this time. The Christian ought to pray privately, "where none but God can hear." He ought to pray for himself; to thank the Lord for His mercies, to plead for forgiveness and ask for larger measures of divine grace. He will be much benefited spiritually by so doing. It is thus he keeps his religion alive and makes it a real motive power in his soul.

He ought, however, not pray for himself alone. He ought to pray for others too, for those whose salvation he earnestly desires, for his fellow Christians, for his pastor, for his congregation, for the spread of the Gospel, and for the salvation of all men. And for inspiration in such religious exercise let him read the epistles of St. Paul. He will then be impressed with the fact that the great Apostle prayed much for others and requested others to pray for him. He gave thanks to God for the faith of those whom he addressed and for the good works they were enabled to perform, and never ceased to pray that the Lord might keep them in the faith and bestow upon them His continued blessings. And frequently he also said in substance and in actual words, "Brethren, pray for us." And still more frequently he exhorted Chris-

tians to pray. The Apostle laid great stress on prayer. He believed in praying. He believed in Christians praying for one another.

We need also to pray, and to pray for each other in various callings. Nothing is so good for a church as much fervent, effectual praying. Pastors ought to pray for their people, and the people, ought to pray for their pastor. All ought to pray for each other.

WHAT WE OWE OTHERS

We owe other people service. Service goes with loving. We cannot love truly and not serve. Love without serving is but an empty sentiment, a poor mockery. God so loved the world that he gave. Love always gives. This matter of serving has multitudinous forms. Sometimes it is poverty that stands at our gate, and money help is wanted. A thousand times more frequently, however, it is not money, but something else more precious that we must give. It may be loving sympathy. Sorrow is before us. Another's heart is breaking. Money would be of no use; it would be only a bitter mockery to offer it. But we can hold to the neighbor's lips a cup of the wine of love, filled out of our own heart, which will give new strength to the sufferer. Or it is the anguish of a life struggle, a human Gethsemane, besides which we are called to watch. We can give no actual aid—the soul must fight its battles alone; but we can be as the angel that ministered to our Lord's Gethsemane, imparting strength and helping the weary struggler to win the victory.

The world is very full of sorrow and trial, and we cannot live among our fellowmen and be true without sharing their loads. If we are happy, we must hold the lamp of our happiness so that its beams will fall upon the shadowed heart. If we have no burden, it is our duty to put our shoulders under the load of others. Selfishness must die, or else our own heart's life must be frozen within us. We soon learn that we cannot live for ourselves and be Christians; that the blessings that are given to us are really for other people; and that we are only God's ministers to carry them in Christ's name to those for whom they were intended—*J. R. Miller, D. D.*